

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THIRD DAY**

**February 9, 2004**

**MEETING HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE SOUTHAMPTON COLLEGE OF LONG  
ISLAND UNIVERSITY LOCATED AT 239 MONTAUK HIGHWAY, SOUTHAMPTON, NEW  
YORK**

**MINUTES TAKEN BY  
DIANA KRAUS, COURT STENOGRAPHER**

**(THE MEETING WAS CONVENED AT 5:45 PM)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Mr. Clerk, would you please call the roll.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

(Not Present)

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Present.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. MONTANO:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Here.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. NOWICK:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Here.

**LEG. BINDER:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. TONNA:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. COOPER:**

(Not Present)

**D.P.O. CARPENTER:**

Here.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Here.

**MR. BARTON:**

There are six present.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Six, Mr. Clerk.

**MR. BARTON:**

Yes.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. We fail to have a quorum at this point in time. I'll recess for ten minutes.

**(RECESS)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Roll call.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Here.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Here.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Present.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Present.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Here.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Here.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Still here.

**LEG. BINDER:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. TONNA:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. COOPER:**

Here.

**D.P.O. CARPENTER:**

Here.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Here.

**MR. BARTON:**

Eleven present.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. I'd like to ask everyone before we •• actually everyone rise for a salute to the flag. Before we have the salute to the flag I'd ask everyone to turn off your cell phones and your pagers, please. I'd like to ask Legislator Bishop to lead us in the salute to the flag.

**(SALUTATION)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Please remain standing. I'd like to at this time recognize Legislator Jay Schneiderman from the second district to introduce tonight's clergy.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. I'd like to for our invocation tonight bring up Reverend Bernadette Sullivan from the Episcopal Church of Hampton Bays.

**REVEREND SULLIVAN:**

I invite you to bow your head as we invoke the name of Almighty God. Oh, Holy God, the eternal ground of all that is, you are beyond space and time, yet within them. You transcend all things, yet you marvelously fill them with your life•giving spirit. We pray you God, this special session of the Suffolk County Legislature, give to your servants, the Legislators gathered here, the spirit of wisdom, discernment, charity, and justice. That with steadfast purpose, they may faithfully serve in their commissions of public trust, to protect and defend the well•being of the People of Suffolk County.

We pray for our County Executive, Steve Levy, that his words tonight inspire the hearts and minds of all who hear him. May we be encouraged by the leadership of the Legislature to continue the good work of sober and honest industry, prudent care for the poor and suffering, and selfless efforts on behalf of the common good.

Almighty God, you have given us this good land of Suffolk County for our use and for our heritage. Bless the people of our county with prosperity, a zeal for sound learning and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance. And from every evil way. Lead us in the paths of righteousness, justice, freedom and peace. Allow us by your compassionate grace to be a people of goodness, strength and courage. Who will bless the State of New York and the United States of America. We pray this night ever mindful of your favor and goodness towards all people, in your sacred and most worthy name. Amen.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Please, be seated. Welcome everybody. Mr. Clerk, would you please read the Special Meeting Notice.

**MR. BARTON:**

Notice of a Special Meeting dated January 26, 2004. To Joseph T. Caracappa, Presiding Officer and all County Legislators from Steve Levy, County Executive of Suffolk County.

Please be advised that a Special Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature will be held on Monday February 9, 2004 at 5:45 PM in the afternoon at Southampton College of Long Island University located at 239 Montauk Highway, Southampton, New York pursuant to section 2•6 (B) Suffolk County Administrative Code, for the following purpose. There are three items. A one•hour public portion, and the annual State of the County address by Steve Levy, County Executive. It's signed and dated the 29th of January, 2004.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you Mr. Barton. We are now going to go to public portion, which will last an hour. To my colleagues under special meeting rules of the Legislature, it will take a super majority of 14 to extend public portion if we so chose.

We have quite a few cards this evening and I'm glad to see that people from the south fork and east end of Long Island and Suffolk County had a chance to come out and address the Legislature tonight. Each speaker does have three minutes. So with that being said I'd like to welcome to the podium the first speaker, Mr. Bill Pearson.

**MR. PEARSON:**

Good evening. What I bring to you tonight is a question about the budget I had mentioned to you on my card. It's a political hot potato, the part that I'm going to bring up. Our Medicare and Medicaid system are a great, great burden on our taxes; for us taxpayers. And our County is overflowing with illegal aliens using our taxes by using the hospitals and our medical system. I'm wondering if the County is going to try to alleviate that problem before they raise my taxes to cover for this particular part of the budget.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Mr. Pearson, just so you know, the rules of the Legislature prohibit us from answering questions at this point. It's the public's time to speak and make their comments but hopefully in tonight's State of the County address you'll hopefully get a partial answer to your question. So, without deviating from the rules of the legislature, I could give a lengthy answer. I'm sure we all could

••

**MR. PEARSON:**

I'm sure you could.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

But in the sake of time and the rules of this body we'll have to refrain.

**MR. PEARSON:**

I probably am expecting too much of an answer tonight, but I do want you guys to know that as a taxpayer and taxpayers of this County, we're being over•run. And we got •• as taxpayers we're not going to have hospitals like •• look at Nassau County. And that'll be an example. Thank you.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much. Next speaker is Cheryl Felice.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Would it be possible to turn up the house lights and turn off some of these •• I can't even see the speakers.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

The staff of the college, hopefully you've heard that request. If you could.

**MS. FELICE:**

Actually, if they could, Mr. Chair, turn that light down. It may be by intention but it's glaring at the speaker here.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

To those in the booth, the light to my right, your left. I don't think we need the bright lights the whole meeting. I understand if you want to bring them up for the state of the county

address and for the live coverage. We all can appreciate that but maybe we could just dim the house lights while we have this hour long public portion. Cheryl.

**MS. FELICE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. On behalf of the 7,000 members of Suffolk County, I would like to extend my thanks to the legislative body, to the Chair, Deputy Presiding and all the Legislature for allowing us this opportunity to speak before you. My name is Cheryl Felice and I'm the President of the Association of Municipal Employees. And there's been a lot of talk about the budget as we know over the past couple of weeks. And what I'd like to present to you is our position concerning the sick time pay•out. Now, I realize the legislation before you concerns exempt employees, but an attack on any employee is a concern of ours, especially if it means that's the next step that we are going to have to address in negotiations.

So first I'd like to question how any public official would intend to increase productivity by removing the sick time pay out incentive. This incentive was fought for and provided in the County union contracts to increase the productivity of Suffolk County workers. By not calling in sick, workers are at their jobs producing work. Many workers do not call in sick despite having cause to do so because there is currently a huge short fall of workers in Suffolk County government. These dedicated men and woman know that the public must be served. And it is up to them to serve them. Their reward to cash out unused sick time upon retirement up to a one•year cap. The majority of county workers in AME do not even reach this cap upon retirement; much less the astronomical pay•out figures being reported in the news.

Therefore, by removing the sick time pay out incentive would at best only have a minimal effect on the county budget. AME also pointed out previously that over 1600 budgeted positions remain unfilled in Suffolk County government for 2004. As a result, most employees are working above capacity and succumb to a variety of stress•related illnesses. For County Executive Levy or any elected official for that matter to insinuate that they are leading by example, by working harder, or imply that the employees are ripping off the system is a slap in the face to every Suffolk County employee who has consistently been doing more with less year after year.

The projected 200 million deficit in the 2005 budget is indeed serious. It must be dealt with in a clear, consistent and fair manner. It has to be dealt with along with the executive branch, the legislative branch and the unions. For anyone in the County to believe that through negotiations the sick time pay out incentive will be rescinded is merely employing smoke and



mirrors.

AME offered the Legislative body and the executive branch our analysis of the 2004 Suffolk County budget. And we identified specific areas where real cost savings can take place. For example, where is the oversight to the fees for services to contract agencies which increase 1.4 million dollars for a total allocation of approximately fifty million dollars? There are many contracts in place with outside agencies where the work force •• where the work could be performed more cost•effectively by County employees. AME believes that if the County continues to contract out custodial work of county buildings, by incorporating the cleaning and maintenance services in the rent, the cost of building leases will continue to skyrocket. Contracting in with AME members will provide a more practical alternative.

I was speaking to a friend of mine, John Greavy, who is the President of the local 608 Brotherhood of Carpenters. And he told me there's a common saying among carpenters. And that saying is, you measure twice. You cut once. In Suffolk County I would emphatically state to measure ten times in order to cut only once. To state that such drastic concessions as the sick time pay out be offered by the hard working, dedicated Suffolk County employees before scrutinizing the entire budget for viable solutions is once again a misguided attempt by the County to balance the budget on the backs of the Suffolk County workers, who are themselves taxpayers. This is one concession we as a union and I as its President will not tolerate. As always I remain available to speak with you on this or any other matter. And I wish you much good luck in the 2004 year. Thank you.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you, Cheryl. Next speaker Anne Abel.

**MS. FELICE:**

Actually the next speakers for AME are not necessary. That was if I went over on my time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

I believe it's Sondar Palmer Randall. Same thing. Joseph Stasys. Ditto. Renee Giorgi.

**MS. GIORGI:**

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to thank you for inviting me back to speak again. As you said, my name is Renee Giorgi. And I'm here to speak on behalf of all the avid quad riders of Suffolk County. As I stated at the last meeting of the Legislators, it's not a guy thing.

There are many families with girls and boys here on Long Island who love the sport, but unfortunately at this time there is no place in Suffolk County or anywhere on Long Island where we can ride freely and legally. That is why I'm here tonight to ask you to form a task force to look into the possibility at creating a place where we can ride our quads without fear and without disturbing others. By setting aside land for us to use, we would not be in the way of our neighbors who run, ride horses, fish or hunt on our parklands. We would be in a space that would be our own. And we would not have to travel to other areas out of state and in state to enjoy our sport. I would like to make a side note. My family and I, we are also horse people, too, so I understand what they're saying also; but we need our time, too.

Let's see. If an area were set aside for us, this would also create jobs and revenue for Suffolk County. We would be spending money here in the County instead of other states and counties. Money would be spent here for permits, use of land and maintaining the lands. Sales of quads would rise in Suffolk County; though the sales are very good at this time. Sales of accessories such as pads, helmets, boots, all of these would add up to more tax revenue for the County as well. I know one of the concerns that many people have regarding legalizing quad riding is the noise and fire risk. There are ways to reduce these problems by adding mufflers. These could be made mandatory for park riding and speed limits could be set as well. We're not looking for a race track; just trails where we can ride and enjoy our machines with our families. It truly is a wonderful family sport. It's a great way to spend some time with your kids and it's not something that they soon outgrow.

My husband and I have been riding dirt bikes and street bikes since we were kids. We rode with our parents and we still ride today. We hope to continue riding together and to do it here in Suffolk County where we live, not anywhere else. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much. Next speaker Diana Weir.

**MS. WEIR:**

That took a while. I'm getting older. I want to thank you, thank the new Presiding Officer, Mr.

Caracappa, and Angie, our Deputy, and the board for coming here, the Legislature, to the east end. Welcome to the beautiful Town of Southampton. I'm from East Hampton and I want to first thank you and the County for always being so generous in your land purchases for the east end, which helps all of Suffolk County. It's very important for the future of our children. But what I come to talk about today is affordable housing, which as you know is a tremendous issue here. And I know that the County has set aside money in an affordable housing fund. And I'd like to make sure that you remember that the east end has a tremendous pressure right now to keep our working families. And if we don't have some type of relief, it's going to be very difficult to keep our working families here. And, also, if you can, as you look at the budget to make sure that our clinics •• our health clinics here that are serving those most needy stay funded because it's a very long trip for people here to get to other clinics, as we say, here up the island. So those are the two issues that I'm really here to ask you to be very mindful of as you cut our affordable housing and health clinic for our working families. Thank you very much.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Next speaker Amie Hamlin. Amie? I know I saw you here. There you are.

**MS. HAMLIN:**

I'm glad I wore my hiking boots today. If anyone was in the parking lot, you know what I'm talking about. My name is Amie Hamlin and I'm here to talk about affordable housing. My family is middle income. My husband works for a large Long Island company as a supervisor of tech support and I work full•time from home making fairly decent pay. We both work full•time and we have two children. It's been a constant source of stress and sadness that owning a home is so far out of our reach. We can only dream about it. Our family and friends can't understand •• they don't live on Long Island •• they can't understand because with our income elsewhere we could afford a decent house. Our rent is \$1450 a month. There's problems with our house not getting fixed by the landlord and threats to raise the rent if we do press forth to be fixed. So we really can't afford to move elsewhere. And houses like ours, you can't get for that price either. I mean, we're almost kind of lucky to have a house as nice as we have for that price. So rent that high, we can't save any money either. I'm very concerned about the issue of affordable housing. If we can't afford a house, what about the people who sell us our groceries, what about the people who provide all the services for us? You know, at least we can

rent a halfway decent house. What about my babysitter? I'm just very, very concerned that it is so difficult on Long Island to afford a house and I hope something can happen to help all people who would like to reach the dream of owning a house.

And I also need to say because you all know me, all of your sitting up there, that protecting the environments and affordable housing are not •• are not opposite. They are something that we can protect the environment and create affordable housing. So I just want to make that point, too. I think's it's a very important one. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. Next speaker Jennifer Green.

**MS. GREEN:**

Hello. I'm a Bellport resident. And I see the lack of truly affordable housing as a top problem of our County, and a problem the County can work to solve. I'd like you to know that I support mixed housing and appropriately dense development as solutions to the lack of affordable housing. And I'm not talking about developing environmentally sensitive areas either. Just like Amie said, the two can be done at the same time.

My home before I moved to Suffolk County ten years ago was Vancouver, British Columbia. And during the time I lived there, I saw the greater Vancouver regional district itself wage a public campaign for Smart Growth that, among other things, demonstrated a clear understanding of the benefits for everyone of mixed housing. Suffolk County could do the same thing. As a parent of a school age child I have seen first hand the sad consequences from my son's school mates, in one case a family of three children with a single parent, the parent working full•time, was evicted by a landlord who wanted to spruce up the place and make more money. And other housing could not be found in my neighborhood at a rent their father could afford. They're education was disrupted as they got shuttled from a hotel near the beach to my own church's emergency housing to a grandmother's apartment in a different school district. The lack of affordable housing affects not just individuals, not just individual families, but communities. It is affecting my community. It affects us all. We need truly affordable housing. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you Next speaker Phil Goldstein.

**MR. GOLDSTEIN:**

Good evening. I'm here to urge you to reconsider a decision that you recently made and that was to spend 1.7 million dollars to plan institution •• an institution for housing the homeless. Actually, I'm here on behalf of the most victimized and powerless segment of our society, and that is the children of the homeless. Lee Tyrel did an expose about the problems of the homeless on News 12 back around the turn of the year. She showed how •• because of the economic down turn, a family of four wound up in a one room motel right out here in the east end. And the children of that family haven been uprooted and the family itself in crisis now faced the problem of either attending schools in a district out here where they might be accepted or spending a goodly portion of their life on the bus traveling back to their original school district. But this was not really a solution to their problem because they were dis •associated from their community. Not only the children but, of course, the entire family was dis•associated by virtue of that crisis which they face. I don't think an institutional solution is what you really want to do. You are only harming that family still further.

Plus the fact that you're creating a costly reaction to an already costly situation. We spend thousands of dollars a month subsidizing those motels and putting those families in that horrendous situation. I would like to suggest to you that a better alternative would be for the County to purchase mobile homes. I'm not talking about the modular homes, the pre •fabricated homes, I'm talking literally about mobile homes. And using those mobile homes to house the families so that they actually have a little home with a bathroom and bedrooms and a kitchen. And thus you could take that mobile home and put it in the district where that family originally resided so that that family is not uprooted and dis•associated and has the assistance of the community where they had previously lived. And it creates a more comfortable environment in which they need to face that crisis. And it also diminishes the impact on their children which only adds to the problem that confronts them in trying to deal with the situation.

Now, it's going to take a coalition. It's going to involve getting to the school districts and

getting the school districts or perhaps the County or the towns or even the state to allocate land on a temporary basis where you could site these mobile homes. But it's only fair because then you're distributing the burden of responsibility. What's going to happen if you continue to pursue the plan that you are undertaking, we know the result. There's going to be partisan bickering. There's going to be NIMBY•ism. It's going to take a long time and the likelihood is you're not going to really come up with a realistic solution to the problem. And in the meantime these people are going to be chewed up by the system and spit out. Whereas the purchase of these mobile homes is something that could be accomplished in a relatively short period of time. It would give you evidence of success that this Legislature can work a bipartisan spirit. After all, we just elected a new County Executive, who is a democrat. And the majority that controls the Legislature is a republican. And you have shown in the past that it's possible for democrats and republicans to work together. We have seen that evidence.

But I am concerned with what I see happening in the Legislature, that there may be a partisan divide that is going to develop. And the needs of the people will not be met. And so I urge you to work in a partisan spirit and to give the due consideration for the proposal I just made. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you, Phil. Michael O'Neil.

**MR. O'NEIL:**

Welcome to the east end. I hope you might consider making this a regular part of your procedures on a regular basis. I'm here to talk about migration and the terrible effects migration is having in our community. Migration is a cancer in our community. It is eating away at our social fabric. It is a cancer draining life from our body politic. It is the forced migration out by economic pressure of our middle and working class families. This cancer is the forced banishment of our young people. The cause of this social cancer upon the body politic is the lack of housing. Housing on the east end is the single most important and pressing problem facing us. Every major stakeholder in our community from the schools to the churches to the newspapers to the small business organizations to the largest employees from the hospitals all call for more affordable housing. Doctors can't keep nurses, schools can't keep teachers, lawyers their assistants, banks their clerks, etcetera, all down the line. We desperately need affordable housing that this Legislature we hope will address. We need this Legislature to stop

talking about housing like our own town boards and begin to do something about this crisis in our community.

I saw on channel 12 the other night a Legislator •• a Suffolk County Legislator speaking about the need for all terrain vehicle access and paths. And I thought at the time what planet do we live on? What is desperately needed are not paths for people's recreation in four•wheel vehicles, but we need housing. And I hope this Legislature will seriously address this issue.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. Next speaker Isabel Sepulveda.

**MS. SEPULVEDA:**

Hi. (Inaudible) so I wasn't prepared. I just want to •• I want to ask the Legislator, please, I will beg you to make affordable housing your priority. And also at the same time I want to thank you for coming here, especially Mr. Levy, for coming to the east end and on behalf of all, I would like to welcome you and hope we can work together with our community to make it better for all of us, for all the residents of Suffolk County. And I hope you won't be a stranger of the east end. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. Next speaker Michael Rio.

**MR. RIO:**

Good evening to our Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, to our Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officer and our Suffolk County Legislators, friends and fellow Suffolk County residents. My name is Michael Rio, known to most of you as Rio. I'm glad to see a lot of familiar faces out there. I'm a Suffolk County homeowner, a Suffolk County business owner, President of Practice MX Motorcross Club, co•founder of the National Motorcross and ATV Association, a supporter of the LIORCV and a member of the American Motorcyclists Association



known as the AMA.

I along with a great number of our citizens and community leaders a very happy and would like to extend our appreciation for the proposed ATV Task Force to study the need for it an ATV park in Suffolk County. So thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

Riding ATV's is the number one growing form of recreation in the United States today. With this and the tremendous increase of sales of these vehicles at about 20% every year, the number of riders in Suffolk County is in the tens of thousands. It is the duty of our community to provide a safe, diverse and quality opportunity for recreation that meets the needs of its citizens. And in our case people who enjoy spending quality time with friends and family while riding their ATV's for fun and recreation. The National Motorcross and ATV Association was founded on the principles of safety and environmental awareness and training to develop knowledge, skill and responsible recreational fun. We are not looking for anything out of the ordinary. We would just like our own parcel of land to enjoy our recreation, which is approximately two 100th's of our county public parkland. I say to two 100th's because that number is for the people that think we want to invade every last corner of the earth, which we really don't.

Anyone who enjoys any form of recreation for the their own happiness should be ashamed of themselves not to support the task force because at one time or another, they needed support; whether a soccer field, bicycle trails, equestrian trails, Little League fields, pistol and rifle ranges, golf courses, campsites, and the list goes on. We should support all of our community's diverse needs. So please, let us have our share of happiness in Suffolk County. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. Next speaker Scott Carlin.

**MR. CARLIN:**

Good evening. I'm Scott Carlin, Professor of Environmental Studies and Geography here at Southampton College. And I certainly wanted to take the opportunity to welcome you here this



evening. I think everyone here at the college is quite excited about your presence today. I, too, want to talk about diversity and to the ATV people who are here I think their concerns are quite legitimate. And I think that is really something I hope the Legislature takes up, the issue of an ATV park. Why should ATV vehicles be on lands where they're inappropriate? Let them have a park and certainly the Legislature should look into that.

I am here, though, to talk about another issue of diversity; and that's housing diversity. There's lots of single family homes here in Suffolk County, but an inadequate supply of mobile homes, garden apartments, brown stones, multi-family homes and all kinds of other forms of housing that would provide decent affordable housing for the people of Suffolk County. As someone who resides here in Southampton Town, I can attest to the fact that there's a tremendous need that is currently unmet for housing here in town. And there's a tremendous transportation issue that this has created on the east end where people have to commute from what we call up island to jobs out here each morning on roads that were never designed for handling that amount of traffic.

I'd like to also add that this issue of housing diversity should be folded into overtime a more comprehensive plan for Smart Growth. So I want to be clear that I'm not saying that the need for housing should wait for more comprehensive plans. I think as others have said there's real emergency today that requires an immediate response. But looking forward we have to do this in a sensible way. And I think the sensible approach forward is Smart Growth. A Smart Growth plan would create liveable communities. It would encourage more transit and less dependence upon automobiles. It would encourage homes and communities that are healthy communities that minimize exposures to toxic chemicals, that are walkable communities that encourage exercise, and also encourage more energy efficient developments on •• in Suffolk County.

I'm glad that the Suffolk County Legislature in the past has taken a leadership role on issues like trying to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, global warming gases. I hope the Legislature will continue to move in that direction but Smart Growth is a set of planning initiatives that can easily be folded into that direction as well through the construction of energy efficient buildings. Thank you very much.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Anthony Ernst.

**MR. ERNST:**

My name is Tony Ernst. I'm from Southampton. The County Legislature and the County Executive should, one, work with the towns to encourage building of housing for working people; two, stop financing the government with high sales taxes, which take such a big bite out of the budget so it's the working poor and middle class. Replace this with, for instance, higher county property taxes on the highest valued properties. This might actually help to discourage the building of excessively large second homes and leave more open space and space for affordable housing; three, help the towns establish employment and social service centers for day laborers so this function can be taken off the streets and legalized. This would improve public safety but probably more importantly this will also help diffuse the hatred that has produced violent acts immigrants in our county; and four, encourage what the Reverend called the spirit of justice, equal justice for all residents of a county by investigating recent incidents of police beating and killing of suspects by the police and in our towns. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. Next speaker Pamela G•r•e•i•n, I think it's a k•e.

**MS. GREINKE:**

Hi. My name is Pam Greinke. I'm from Southampton. I have two children in the Tuckahoe Southampton schools. I'm here to talk about affordable housing. As I single mother I work full •time and I also have a couple part•time jobs so I'm usually working seven days a week leaving very little quality time to spend with my children. Our living situation is uncertain because I have a month•to•month lease and eventually we will have to move because our house is in need of a lot of major repairs. I have in the past had to live in shared housing where I've rented out rooms to friends to help make ends meet. I've also gone to Town Hall to apply for section eight assistance and I've been told the waiting list is closed and will be for several years. I currently pay about fifty percent of my income on rent alone. And the house that I'm renting is actually •• the rent is far below the average rent for a house that size mainly because it's in need of so many repairs. When I do have to move from this house, I could expect to pay

probably close to 75% of my current income on rent. I have had friends who have had to live in someone else's basement, a family of five who spent several months in another family's basement because they couldn't afford their rent. I have had other friends who have been in houses that needed repairs but were afraid to ask because the landlord says if you don't like it, leave. Somebody else can move in. I have plenty of people waiting.

There are many people in the same position that I am in. And we're hard•working productive members of our Community and we have to find a way to provide decent, safe and affordable housing for our families and for the future of our children. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Edward Johann.

**MR. JOHANN:**

I'll pass.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Pass. Okay. Brian Byrnes.

**MR. BYRNES:**

Good evening everybody. I'm dating myself a little bit. Remember the comedian Flip Wilson? He had a little skit about I wigwam being built next a mansion. Kind of reminds me of the east end a little bit. Everybody seems to be for the most part in favor of affordable housing as long as it's not in their backyard. Okay. So we wrestle with these things because we want to do the right thing but on our terms. I want to talk about briefly apartments versus homes. I'll give you an example. If you take ten acres in the East Hampton ballpark six homes, take that same piece of property ten acres and do apartments like Windmill One or Two, 60 apartments. And they come out pretty tastefully. So I would encourage this body to consider apartments as opposed to homes. And I would invite you to come out to Windmill One and Windmill Two. Windmill Two is senior housing 49 units. They're incredible, so tastefully done, cedar shake, rec area, you couldn't get those seniors out of there with a hand grenade. They love it. Really first class. And I'm sure that Mr. Schneiderman would take you on the nickle tour. It's worth the

trip. And these projects can be done with a number of agencies. You know, we don't foot the whole bag for affordable housing, the whole tab. There's the County, there's the state, okay, there's the federal government. So I mean in one sense we do, but I mean it's not that big of a hit because you have all those other agencies.

Two quick things. I would ask that you would work to continue protecting our environment. People that come out to the east end, they say, wow, this is heaven. Well, it's not going to stay heaven if we're not careful. Okay? Building big homes close to our bays and our marinas, high levels of nitrate and fertilizer, it's a no-brainer. They kill the clams, the shellfish. And I don't think we get that back. In closing I that your legacy as Legislators would be one that you could look back on and be proud of your accomplishments and most of all, I hope that affordable housing is one of them. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much. Lucius Ware.

**MR. WARE:**

President Caracappa, the Suffolk County Legislature, we welcome you to the east end and the Town of Southampton. And welcome to Southampton. Legislator Schneiderman, welcome to the south shore. Legislator Caracciolo. We in Southampton are in deed happy that you have chosen to come to us. This has been a long time coming. We want to remind you and everybody else here that you are in the Town of Southampton, which has the most diverse work force in this County. We have a work force that stands at 17% of the work force being people of color at all levels of employment. That was not true four years ago. And I'm saying that this can happen quickly if you get behind the wheel and really move to diversify the work force of the County of Suffolk.

Also, the Southampton school district which is near by is the most diverse school district in terms of employment. So we want you to take heed about that and let everybody know that we can do the job. Now, there are certainly a lot of other things that can be done. There has been a lot said about affordable housing and it in deed should have the highest priorities. There are going to be some tough calls to be made. There are some things that we're we are not

show produced of here in Southampton. We've had some incidents, unbelievable incidents where we have had people to die in the last 12 months at the hands of police officers. We've had some terrible incidents in our county correctional facility. These things need again a high priority to make sure that they don't happen. We certainly need a civilian complaint review board. And we urge you to make sure that that happens. I stood before this Legislature on other occasions and before the Public Works Committee about the Peconic River. We worked hard. Members of the Legislature worked hard. Worked hard to overcome a veto by the previous County Executive 18 zip. And it never got done.

Now we have some Johnny•come•latelys who are very, very zealous. And they talk about an aggressive clean up of the Peconic River. Well, those of us who live down river, the Peconic River, are very, very much afraid of an aggressive clean up. This is something that has to be done with great care. And it's not a rush thing to be done.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Mr. Ware?

**MR. WARE:**

Yes.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

If you could sum up. Your time expired.

**MR. WARE:**

To sum up, I would like to say that we will be back before the Legislature on a number of issues and we look forward to working with you again; and certainly if we can get our work in all of the committees like we've had the cooperation from the Public Works Committee, we will be very happy. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much. You actually startled me with the title of President. I don't know if that comes with a raise. I don't think it's going to make the County Executive if it does.

Next speaker is Andrew Malone.

**MR. MALONE:**

My name is Andrew Malone. I'm a resident of Southampton and I want to thank you for coming here. I'm not going to mention the need for affordable housing because we all know there's a need. I came to offer a small solution. As I move around the County, I see in the lesser affluent areas, housing that are boarded up. If we took those houses and made them where they could be usable, that would bring tax monies, put them back on the tax rolls, bring money to the County, and I think would help to be a small solution to a big, big problem. Thank you.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. Ann Ernst.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Mr. Chairman.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Legislator Foley.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Yes. Given the fact that the State of the County address by the County Executive is scheduled for 7:00 and that's eight minutes away, and we have the President of the college ready to make some introductory remarks, how many other speakers will speak prior to the 7:00 hour? We have a fine tradition, we would like to have everyone speak but given that the primary purpose of today's meeting •• of tonight's meeting is the State of the County address, I would hope that we could have the speech and the introductory remarks made on time and promptly starting at 7:00.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

There are eight cards left.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Just on the point of eight cards, that would take us well past 7:00. And I know that ••

**THE AUDIENCE:**

Extra five minutes. You're wasting time.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

I wish to be recognized.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

I heard a point of order behind me. Legislator Alden first.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Point of order. I don't have it in front of me. I don't have anything in front of me but the call of the meeting stated 7:15 or 7:20 for the speech to start so I'm not sure where the 7:00 comes from.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

No. If I may, through the Chair. The 7:00 ••

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Legislator Foley. Just •• on the Special Meeting Notice, it states 7:10.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

7:10 or is it 7:00, Joe?

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

State of the County address by Steve Levy, County Executive, Suffolk County, at 7:10 PM or at the conclusion of the public portion, whichever occurs last.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Mr. Chairman, I have an inquiry of the Chair.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Legislator Bishop.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Am I correct that the public portion is a one•hour session. And then it's 14 votes to extend it?

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Yes, under rules of a Special Meeting of the Legislature, public portion is not to exceed one hour. Anything exceeding that one hour needs a 14 vote.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

And we began at 6; right?

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

No. Five to.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Okay. So then we'll be done and then I would hope that everybody would support a motion to allow speakers after the speech. That would seem to be the logical and legal way to go.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Well, there's four minutes. Legislator Crecca.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Granted if we had 30 speakers more to go, we might want to do that. But you're talking about members of the public who came out here to speak. You're talking about what I think are eight speakers left limited to three minutes each. You know, I certainly think that we could extend the courtesy to the public to hear them speak and ••

**(APPLAUSE)**

**LEG. CRECCA:**

•• I would urge my fellow Legislators to join me in allowing that to happen. Certainly Mr. Levy can speak by 7:30, probably the latest.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes. I fully concur with Legislator Crecca's sentiments with respect to allowing the public to be heard. And in light of the fact that we do have eight more speakers left, I mean this discussion and debate, if you will, is just prolonging. That amounts to 24 minutes. I would move that we move along on the public portion and if necessary entertain a motion to extend the public portion to have the public fully heard and speak during their portion of this particular meeting.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Second.



**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Okay. There's a motion to extend the public portion which does take 14 votes. And there is a •

- the motion was made by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Caracciolo.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

On the motion.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Okay. We have two minutes left. Legislator Foley on the motion.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

As much as everyone of us around this what we would call horseshoe if we were either in Riverhead or Hauppauge, we have always honored the public to speak as many cards as has been fill out. The difference about tonight, what makes tonight different from all other nights, is the fact this is the State of the County address which will be televised throughout Suffolk County live. And we've been told, and I think the public should be aware of this, we've been told that if the County Executive cannot speak by 7:05, that the telecast will not be covered, that the rest of the County will not be able to hear the speech given by the County Executive; that being the case, and I'm one who's always zealously guarded the public, as all of us, the fact that we would only recess this meeting, the public portion rather, until the County Executive's speech is over. Then, we'd go right back to the cards, the comments would be made part of the public record, and we'd be able to address those concerns as time moves forward.

So Mr. Chairman, as much as there's a motion to extend the public meeting, I'd like to make a motion to recess the public portion until the conclusion of the County Executive State of the County address. I'll make that motion.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I'll second it, Mr. Chair.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Legislator Foley, I don't believe there's a need for a motion. It might be out of order seeing that the fact under our rules of Special Meeting dictate that as of now public portion has expired. There is a motion pending, though, and I will honor that motion.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

On the motion •• on the motion I heard Legislator Vilorio•Fisher •• you second the motion to recess, but it's out of order. It's unnecessary. Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Under our rules we are forbidden to ask questions and pretty much to speak while the public portion goes on. So whatever the time limit was, should be extended at least by the time we just took up with this debate which is approximately eight or ten, 15 minutes to allow the public to speak.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

I did call a card for a speaker. I'm going to allow that speaker to have her three minutes and then we'll have a vote on the motion before us to extend. So I'd ask the speaker to once again •• announce your name again. I'm sorry.

**MS. ERNST:**

My name is Ann Ernst. And I want to thank you for coming here tonight. If I wasn't nervous before, I certainly am now. And I think this is why nothing gets done. I don't mean to be rude, but I believe it's a big problem.

When I was a student of psychology at Montclair State University, Bear Skinner was popular and behaviorial modification was one of the things that they were pushing. And one of things I talked to my professors about was first we need to decide what behavior we're modifying. We can modify behavior but do we want to? Do we have the right to play God with our children, with our neighbors, with Legislators, with each other? I think that in the United States we do just about anything we set our mind to. We can eradicate small pox over the world. We can come up with polio vaccine, we can put people on the moon, we an put robots on Mars. We can wage war for ••I don't know what reason. But can we give people housing that work for us? That work with us? Our relatives. Do they deserve a roof over their home (sic) after they put in eight hours, sixteen hours, seven days a week?

My niece and nephew recently renting. Their landlord died. The niece who inherited more than three houses. As soon as the probate was over, she and her lawyer came up and doubled the rent for a two•bedroom place on a dirt road. He was born in East Hampton and works for the Town of East Hampton and she works for a non•profit agency. They're not greedy. They don't

drive an SUV. They barely have time to go to the beach. And because the daughter was sick tonight, I'm speaking for them. Housing is necessary for everyone of every color. Everybody deserves it and they deserve heat and hot water also. Thank you.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much. We have a motion and a second to extend public portion. Roll call.

**(Roll Called by Mr. Barton, Clerk)**

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Aye.

**LEG. COOPER:**

No.

**LEG. TONNA:**

(Not present)

**LEG. BINDER:**

Yes.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

No.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yes.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Yes.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

No.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

(Not present)

**LEG. FOLEY:**

No.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

No.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yes.

**D.P.O. CARPENTER:**

Yes.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Yes.

**MR. BARTON:**

Ten.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Mr. Chairman, if I could make a motion to renew the public portion  
Following the conclusion of the County Executive State of the County address.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second the motion.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Isn't that motion out of order?

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

I don't know if that's a valid motion. Counsel?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I'd ask Counsel if that's a valid motion.

**MS. KNAPP:**

If Presiding Officer wishes to at the end, he could ••

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Sure. We have eight cards. And we will hear the rest of the public for sure. Legislator Crecca.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Yes. As a point of order and I'll certainly stay around listen to the public but our rules do not allow a motion to extend the public portion. The motion was just now to extend the public portion. The public portion unfortunately now has been terminated as a result of the vote that went down. I will stay and listen to the public, but you voted to end the public portion. And I think that we all could have been a little more patient including the County Executive and listen.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

I'd ask everyone refrain from calling out from the audience.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Point of order.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Point of order, Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'd like a ruling from the Chair, we did use up most of the public's portion. There was at least ten to twelve minutes by my calculations of public portion still available when a debate broke out back here. We used up the public portion. I'd like a ruling whether that should be reinstated.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Well, gee, thanks, Cameron. Seeing that we have voted to extend public portion that has

failed, and seeing that we do have a limited amount of cards left, I'd have to say the public portion has terminated based on the ayes and nays that were cast. So at this point in time, we'll refrain until after the State of the County to hear the final eight speakers. That would be my ruling.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

It's just a shame that the people got gypped out of a chance to speak.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Yeah, I agree. I agree. Okay at this point in time I'd like to introduce for some welcoming remarks Dr. Charles Hitchcock of Southampton College of Long Island University.

**DR. HITCHCOCK:**

Thank you, Presiding Officer Caracappa. Welcome to Southampton College. I am Charles Hitchcock, Academic Dean of the College. Our Provost, Daniel Rodas, and I are very pleased that our Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy has chosen to come east of the Shinnecock Canal and deliver his annual address to you from our Avram Theatre stage.

Government and education to us all. By gathering here this evening, Steve Levy has broken with tradition in order to reach out to the broader community. There are many dynamic individuals in this room tonight; and the communication that will occur is vital If we are to help our communities to grow successfully and intelligently.

Southampton College is an educational community which is undergoing an extraordinary transformation. Beginning in September 2004, we will introduce a new interdisciplinary core program which we believe will better equip our students for the 21st century. In addition a new library is under construction. The Parrish Art Museum will build a new \$40 million museum here, bringing more of the Southampton community to our campus. We've added a new research vessel to our marine science fleet and will soon begin constructing a state•of•the•art ecologically•engineered sewerage system.

None of our goals will be reached without hard work and planning. And Certainly we will need to communicate these changes to the communities beyond us. No one knows this better than Steve Levy. Tonight is just one very good example of his skill as a communicator. His career is filled with important victories, intelligent plans, and excellent communication skills.

And now may I turn this back to Presiding Officer Caracappa who will introduce our Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

I'm obviously being cued. So we'll just wait one moment. Should we have another public speaker in the meantime? I think my three minutes are up as Dave Bishop has just said. Thirty seconds. Does anybody have a fifteen second joke?

**(LAUGHTER)**

**(RECESS)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Good evening. My name is Joseph Caracappa. I'm the Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature. I'd like to welcome everybody here to Southampton College for the State of the County address. On behalf of Deputy Presiding Officer Angie Carpenter, Majority Conference Leader Andrew Crecca, Minority Leader David Bishop and all the members of the Legislature, we welcome you for County Executive's Steve Levy's first State of the County address. I'd like to welcome all of you watching at home and for joining us today in listening to the County Executive discuss the very important issues that are facing the residents of Suffolk County in the upcoming year. With that being said, I'd like you all to join me in welcoming County Executive Steve Levy.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Thank you so much. I just got the news, Joe, I heard this is the public portion and I have three minutes; is that true?

**(LAUGHTER)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Well, Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, county employees, members of the Legislature, the audience here in this beautiful auditorium at Southampton College, and the public, which for the first time is seeing a Suffolk State of the County address in the evening on life television thanks to News 12.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

I want to thank many of the elected officials and dignitaries who have joined us today. Forgive me if I leave anyone out. Supervisor Steve Bellone from Babylon, Supervisor Frank Patrone from Huntington, Supervisor Josh Horton from Southhold, District Attorney Thomas Spoda, who has a couple of fans; Supervisor John J. LaValle from Brookhaven, our County Comptroller Joe Sawicki, our Sheriff Al Tische, our County Clerk Ed Romaine. And I believe our Congressman Tim Bishop.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Just over a month ago I gave my inauguration speech at Suffolk Community College in Selden. In the tradition of such an address, it was for the most part an uplifting speech that referred to my experiences growing up as a child in Suffolk County. And the hope and promise that existed then and still exists today. Tonight, I am delivering an address that will be more blunt and analytical about the issues that confront us. This address is given early in the year to help guide us in our policy decisions for the months to follow.

First of all, I want to say that we have many reasons to be proud of this County. Our Legislature has been perhaps the most innovative in the entire nation. I know you all personally. Some of you are friends whom I've had the good fortune to serve with for more than twelve years. A few of you are new to this Legislative body, but I know you have embraced the job with great enthusiasm and will be willing to work diligently to serve the people you represent.

As we move forward to address the many challenges before us, I hope that party affiliation will be irrelevant and we will all work together.



**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Ideas should drive out policies, not party labels. We will need that cooperation because we face a very difficult financial climate. I knew it would be difficult, but I didn't realize how difficult until Fred Pollert, our Deputy County Executive for Finance, who's in the audience here today, echoed the comments of a budget colleague in Erie County in calling this the worst budget situation he has seen in 30 years. Now we've heard doomsday scenarios before and have come out of them intact. But this time it really is different. All of the factors that can break our budget are converging in one single year. Worse, many of these debilitating factors are totally out of our control.

The state is requiring local governments to make up in one year the losses they sustain when the depressed stock market caused huge revenue shortfalls in the state employee pension fund. We were supposed to bite the bullet last year, but we were given a reprieve by the state comptroller. He allowed us to float a \$65 million bond enabling us to pay much of our 2004 pension increase over the course of several years.

Unfortunately, the state comptroller presently does not plan to allow us or any other counties across the state to do the same next year. As a result, we're going to take a hit of an astonishing \$85 million increase next year alone for pension costs. To put this in proper perspective, our entire general fund property tax levy is a mere 54 million. We can wipe out all of the aid our general fund property tax levy provides to contract agencies, health care services, senior citizen centers and veteran services, and we would still need to raise revenue substantially to pay back the state for the pension debt alone.

Then there is the growth in the other great behemoth from the state: Medicaid. Last month I joined fellow county executives in Albany to address the problem. Every county executive from around the state expressed his or her concerns about how devastating the growth in Medicaid costs are to their counties. But none of their stories are as compelling as Suffolk's. Jaws actually dropped when I told them that our county collects an average one million dollars a week from property taxpayers for our general fund, while simultaneously sending to the state more than one million dollars a week just to pay for the growth in Medicaid costs this year. That's not the total Medicaid bill. Just the growth, which totalled more than \$57 million. Next year we conservatively estimate that Medicaid costs will increase by yet another 34 four

million.

Now having spent sometime in Albany, as a state assemblyman, I know that getting an item on the legislative agenda is a competitive sport sometimes full contact. But getting mandate relief from Albany is not only the number one priority on my state legislative agenda, it is number one on my county agenda as well. For if we don't get mandate relief from the state, the magnitude of this Medicaid and pension increase is so great, it could wipe out of the rest of our budget and the rest of our programs. I've worked with Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi on this issue, and I have joined the County Executives of Erie, Chautauqua and Rensselaer Counties in forming a committee that has met with Governor Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Bruno and Assembly Speaker Silver to press our case.

But it won't be easy. I recall the words of assembly colleagues when local officials would come up hat in hand. They'd say, "why don't you get your own house in order before looking for a handout?" It's a fair request. To ask relief from the state, we must be on the fiscal high ground. I have informed state leaders I am prepared to commit an appropriate portion of our county sales tax revenue to the state in exchange for the state assuming 100% of the responsibility for funding the Medicaid programs, as is the case in the vast majority of other states.

**(APPLAUSE)**

### **COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

It is also imperative that here in Suffolk we pass the comprehensive government restructuring plan that I will present to you shortly. We need to pass these reforms for numerous reasons. First, we must show the state that we are capable of doing our own part before we ask their help. Second, we must accumulate the savings we'll need to create the cushion necessary to offset potentially large tax increases or cuts to services. Third, and just as importantly, we need to heed the will of the people who have said emphatically that they want reform. They said time and time again, they want an Executive and a Legislature that works cooperatively to eliminate perks and weed out the waste, duplication of services and inefficiencies of county government.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

The taxpaying residents who pay our salaries cannot identify with some of the appointed employees making astronomical salaries. We have, therefore, begun the trend of lowering these excessive salaries for incoming Commissioners. Some will earn a comfortable salary, but one that is generally five to 30% less than that of the their predecessors. It is important to set the right tone and to take actions that say to residents we recognize the fact that we work for you. And we will not abuse the trust that you have placed in us.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Now, there will be a great deal of pressure on us not to make these changes. Those assistants to the deputies in various departments who have had county cars for twenty years will want to keep them. They will lobby us to relent. We must stay strong. There will be some who will lose the ability to cash out tens of thousands of dollars in unused sick time. They will ask us to relent. We must stay strong. There will be some who are used to going to five conventions a year with three other colleagues and will lobby us against streamlining this travel and conference policy. We must stay strong. There will be company presidents who complain about our efforts to put our bus contracts out to bid. We must stay strong.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Others will complain about our policy of requiring double sign•offs to control overtime costs. Once again, we must stay strong. Our various proposals will seek to reduce that portion of the shortfall we have the ability to control. We cannot afford to sit back and hope this shortfall magically disappears by itself. It will not. If we are not proactive, the taxpayers of this county will take it on the chin next year.

Now, I don't profess to have all the answers or to say that my way is the only way. It has to be our way. We must work together. And that is why I have asked for the formation of a bipartisan working group with members of the Legislature to formulate a plan to deal with our enormous fiscal challenges. You can agree with my proposals or make suggestions of your

own. But merely rejecting my reform package without approving legislation with comparable solutions is not an answer. Action is needed. It's what we're paid for. If we're going to say no to large tax increases, which I hope we will, we had better be willing to enact the efficiencies, the restructuring and even the cuts necessary to avoid those tax hikes.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

We have to choose. And the only reasonable approach is to cut out as many inefficient aspects of government as we can early in the process to avoid having to cut back on the core services that people have come to rely on from their county government. We can't wait until May to enact the budget plan. If you want to see savings in December, we have to enact those changes now.

Now, while we're tackling our fiscal woes, we must also address the many other problems that are plaguing our constituents. Chief among them is the need to create more affordable housing for our young people.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

And I was listening to the public hearing. And I hear you loud and clear. It is simply not fair that they are being denied the opportunity to experience the same American dream that others experienced here on Long Island.

This crisis is having a negative impact on those families have to relocate elsewhere. It affects grandparents who are denied the pleasure of seeing their grandchildren grow up close by. It affects businesses that are finding it harder and harder to attract and retain a talented young work force. That, of course, affects our county economy. And the money we are able to generate through tax revenues to support our needed services and to stabilize our property tax rates.

The issue of affordable housing has usually been the domain of local municipalities. The County's role was tangential at best. But this crisis is so severe that it is imperative that this county government moves forward with an aggressive plan to increase the stock of affordable

housing to meet the needs of Long Island's work force.

We want to do •• what we want to do is find a way to get our children, many of them who are approaching 30 years of age, out of the basement and attic apartments to which they have been relegated.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

I will, therefore, be establishing the Suffolk County Commission on Workforce Housing comprised of representatives from local government, builders, environmentalists and community leaders to map out our county to distinguish those lands that should be preserved from those that should be the source of our housing needs.

And I'm very, very delighted to report that Jim Morgo, the hard•working, successful and highly respected President of the Long Island Housing Partnership has agreed to chair this important Commission. Thank you very much, Jim.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

The Commission will, among other things, identify previously developed sites for redevelopment. We will bring the towns in on the front end to obtain needed zoning changes, get commitments from builders who will have proper incentives, and buy or even condemn dilapidated pre•existing structures guided by Smart Growth principles. Eventually the builders will buy back these properties from the County once they have their permits.

Our affordable houses will be the nicest on the block and pay taxes into our economy. Our county government will be far more proactive in seeking to provide necessary incentives to spark construction of work force housing. I am eager to implement legislation passed by this Legislature in December, which will allow Suffolk County to lower our waive sewer permit fees for those builders who agree to reserve a portion of their developments for affordable housing.

Likewise, we will expedite the review of various health permits for those developers who agree to build this housing.

We will ask banks that work with us in county government, to lend a hand with down payment assistance and low interest loans. We will also seek to provide incentives for builders to construct more two-family housing in appropriate sites. Two-family homes that are owner-occupied in appropriate locations can provide young applicants with the rental income that will finally allow them to obtain higher mortgages which are necessary for even the simplest starter homes. Finally, the Commission will also be encouraged to examine other roles the County can address in this crisis.

We also need to address housing for our homeless population that continues to grow. The increasing numbers of homeless aside from the more obvious impacts is having an enormous drain on our budget. There has to be a better way to provide shelter than paying \$6,000 per month to house a single family in a run-down motel.

That is why I thank this Legislature for passing legislation last week that will provide funding for the eventual construction of our second Tier II homeless shelter here in Suffolk County. A job well done, ladies and gentlemen. This shelter will provide housing that is both more habitable and far less costly for the taxpayer.

And thanks to Smart Growth concepts, addressing our affordable housing needs does not have to be mutually exclusive to continuing our efforts to preserve our environment. We are at a crossroads in our county history. The decisions we make over the next few years will have a profound effect on the type of Suffolk County that our grandchildren will see. 64% of our county is now developed. Compare this to the more than 90% of Nassau County that has been paved over. We still have a small window, a golden opportunity to ensure that we preserve this county's suburban, and in some cases rural character.

**(APPLAUSE)**

#### **COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

As of this date, only 25% of our original farmland still remains. Pressures continue to mount on our farmers to sell off their land to be developed. The programs are in place to preserve these farms and open spaces. The money is there as well thanks to the dedicated funds reserves for these purposes. Unfortunately problems with the County's open space program have prevented

this county from maximizing its ability to win the race against over•development.

That is why I will ask the Legislature to work with me to revamp our Real Estate Division and place it under the supervision of a renowned environmentalists, my Director of Environmental Affairs, Michael Deering.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Michael is a founding member of the Pine Barren Society. He helped draft the Brownfields legislation recently approved by the New York State Legislature and the original Pine Barrens Act. It is my intention to place this program under the leadership of an environmentalist who wakes up every morning and goes to work with only the environment on his mind.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Mike will be assisted in this endeavor through the hiring of Patricia Zielenski, who will be coming to work for the County after serving as a Regional Supervisor of the Real Property Bureau of the State of new York Department of Environmental conservation for over ten years. Let's make every effort to acquire as much land as we can and close these deals as fast as possible.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Presently there are positions related to the environment scattered throughout the various departments in the County ranging from planning to Public Works to the Health Department. I ask the Legislature to work with me in consolidating our environmental programs and energy functions under a single department of environment that will cost not a dollar more for bureaucracy, but will insure that matters related to open space, recycling, energy planning, groundwater protection and awareness of the links of environment to cancer development will be under the auspices of our dedicated environmental expert.



It is our goal •• it's our goal to have this Department of Environment provide leadership for the purposes of increasing recycling within the Long Island region. We in the County should provide leadership by first enforcing our own recycling laws and providing the conduit to greater recycling in the business sector.

It is also time for our county government to pay greater attention to a fear that so many of our residents continue to harbor regarding the link between our environment and cancer development. Several years ago after a great deal of pressure from local activists including the ground One in Nine, the State of New York finally relented and conducted a far reaching study to see if there are links between environmental factors ranging from pesticides to electromagnetic fields to high iron content on abnormally high cancer clusters in particular areas. The data was collected, but advocates expressed their disappointment that little was done to evaluate the data.

We will ask our Health Commissioner to appoint an individual within a department to assess how we can connect these links. We will also be establishing a committee of advocates and interested health officials throughout the County to provide input as to how this data should be evaluated.

Here in Southampton, you never forget that Suffolk is a coastal county. We have at least a thousand miles of salt water coast line that we need to take care of. It is our defining natural resource and a critically important economic asset. Our beaches must be managed intelligently. But we can't do it alone. That is why our Planning Department is working closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers on their reformulation of the Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point project. The federal government has spent over \$30 million to define the environmental and engineering needs of this project and should complete their work by the end of the year. But the President wants to cut funding for this when we're almost at the goal line. The federal government cannot walk away from its responsibilities in this area. We will work vigorously to ensure that our vulnerable shoreline, which means so much to our local economy, is not placed on the federal back burner.

**(APPLAUSE)**

#### **COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

I wish to extend a request to the Legislature to work with me in a bipartisan fashion in allowing



my nominations for Commissioners to be approved so that they can get to work for the taxpayers of this County. I am certain that those already confirmed including Richard Dormer, our new Police Commissioner, and Christine Malafi, our first woman County Attorney, will make this County proud.

Later this week, you will have before you nominees for various positions who were designated do to their experience, expertise and professionalism rather than party enrollment or political persuasion. Ron Foley, my nominee for parks, has a vast amount of experience as the Regional Director for the New York State Parks Department. John Desmond, the nominee for the Probation Department, is a 31•year member of that department. And Robert Dow, who will take the reins of the Labor Department, is a highly educated labor leader.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

The revitalization of our downtowns is an essential element of sound economic development plans. The condition of our downtowns is a reflection on our perception of local neighborhoods. A vibrant downtown increases both surrounding property values and our sense of pride within our communities.

Years ago this County government instituted a program that invested funding in beautifying those business corridors. Thanks to this program and the hard work of local officials and Chambers of Commerce, downtowns and hamlets such Bay Shore, Holbrook, and many others have experienced a renaissance. We are committed to continuing these investments and to rebuilding our downtown areas.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

And while we're improving our downtowns, we will start redeveloping our Brownfield sites. Nothing is more debilitating to a community than having to live with an abandoned gas station, industrial site or vacant storefront in the neighborhood year after year after year. We will be aggressive in identifying these sites and tapping into state and federal grants to remove these eye sores from our neighborhoods and get these sites back on the tax rolls.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

For our downtowns to prosper, we must maintain a strong police presence there. We are fortunate to have one of the best police departments in the nation. We stay thank you to the men and woman of this force who have made Suffolk County one of the safest places to live in the state.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Our Community Oriented Police Enforcement, or more commonly know as COPE units, started years ago under a reformed•oriented Commissioner, Dan Guido. My Commissioner, Richard Dormer, is a protege of Dan Guido. And both Rich and I, and I am sure, the Legislature as well, favor retaining these patrols.

Our COPE units deal with quality of life issues that range from teenagers congregating outside your home at one AM to gang members soliciting our children at our school yards. Our civic associations in downtown communities rely on these units. And we will not let them down. But we will not be able to continue to afford these important patrols unless we take common sense measures to control the fast rising costs of the police district. Arbitration awards have brought salaries to rather high levels. It is imperative, therefore, that we deploy our officers as efficiently as possible. We need fewer able•bodied officers in desk positions and more in our COPE units. Civilianization works. Whether it's officers being redeployed from the audio visual unit or the officers I redeployed who were formally driving for the County Executive. The savings that materialize will be real. Once redeployed, there are that many fewer new officers we will have to hire to perform these police duties now covered by the redeployed officers.

In today's new world, our quest for public safety stretches beyond a local patrol in our neighborhoods. It now requires an aggressive approach to homeland security. To that end I will be announcing in the near future a Suffolk County Director of Homeland Security who will coordinate with various levels of government and local hospitals to ensure that we are prepared with adequate communication capabilities and emergency response planning for any contingency. I thank the Legislature for helping to place that position in the budget last year.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

It is also my intention to work side by side with our Congressional delegation to make help make Suffolk County a future incubator for the development and manufacturing of cutting edge homeland security technology for the entire country; not just the state, the entire country.

Earlier I asked for your help in approving my nominees to lead the new administration. And as one appointment I recently made of which I am quite proud, that of Rich Johannesen as the Chairman of the Suffolk County Ethics Commission.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Rich is a registered conservative. That didn't go too well at the Democratic breakfast I had a little earlier this morning, but it was the right thing to do. But as I said earlier, we are not at all concerned about registration. We simply wanted an individual who's passionate about raising ethical standards in the County. Rich is a respected attorney and is committed to government reform.

And now that our Chairman in is place, it is time for us to finally fulfill the mission of the ethics legislation passed sixteen years ago which calls for the hiring of a full•time Ethics Director.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Our ethics overhaul will include 1) calling on all exempt employees to report outside businesses they are conducting so that we may better weed out potential conflicts. 2) the passing of legislation that will bar party officials and elected officials from serving on our Ethics Board. 3) support for a legislative bill which requires those buying from and selling land to the County to disclose their campaign contributions. And 4) expanding our financial disclosure laws to ensure that information on the forms is no longer "whited out"; thereby defeating the whole purpose of disclosure.

**(LAUGHTER)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

We will also be looking to approve the appointment of a former federal prosecutor who will examine several county functions, in particular Workers Compensation abuses and other operations to uncover problems and make recommendations by which we could become a more efficient and well-managed County; thereby erasing the "F" grade for management that the County previously received from the Maxwell School.

One of our first efforts in this regard will involve streamlining government and on cost cutting measures for certain big ticket items. I have asked the Long Island Regional Planning Board under the leadership of Dr. Lee Koppelman, to conduct a study of the Employees Medical Health Plan and to make recommendations on ways to control the skyrocketing costs of providing quality health insurance benefits to the County's employees and retirees, a \$190 million program.

Our County must be managed better while also becoming more constituent friendly. This is the people's government. And we are just temporary caretakers. Our government should act accordingly. Our constituents should no longer be frustrated by impersonal voice mail messages when seeking contact with officials of this government.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

An inventory of all departments will be conducted to insure that our constituents have access to human beings when seeking services. We will also expand our seminars for incoming employees to learn the latest techniques in enhancing sensitivity to our constituents in order to make the services we provide as courteous as possible.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

I said it at my inauguration and earlier this evening and it's worth saying again to the people of Suffolk County, we work for you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

We will pursue our time in office with that motto as our guide.

We will get to work immediately in helping our senior population navigate through the complex Suffolk County senior citizen Medicaid discount card program that began in May. I am directing the Office of Aging to implement an outreach program to assist seniors with filling out the paper work necessary to secure the cards and understand the various options. In addition, I am forming a joint federal County task force along with Congressman Steve Israel to analyze the possibility of securing discounted prescription drugs from Canada as other municipalities ••

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

And those aren't even the seniors clapping, so you can imagine.

**(LAUGHTER)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

The municipality, Springfield, Massachusetts, implemented this program and saved millions and millions of dollars and with federal waivers, we may be able to do the same.

One issue where residents have become increasingly frustrated with their government is the issue of immigration. They believe the federal and local governments have ignored the issue. It is my belief that most Suffolk County citizens believe, as I do, that immigration is healthy for you are local economy, but only when it is done legally and through proper channels.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

This County government will not sit by idly while immigration and labor laws are being violated right before our very eyes. We will address the problem head on. I will be creating an immigration task force to bring together our brightest economists, labor leaders and community representatives; and discuss whether we have a void within our work force and what pool of labor is desirable.

From there, it will be our intention to work with the federal government to ensure that this labor pool is working within the context of the law. We will thereafter have our sales tax enforcement unit and our police department work to ensure that those businesses that follow the law by paying their sales taxes and their unemployment and Workers Compensation benefits are not put at a competitive disadvantage by those companies that would refuse to pay proper wages or benefits.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

By enforcing the law, we will develop a healthier economy, prevent exploitation of workers in an otherwise illegal underground economy and preserve the integrity of our neighborhoods. And while we're enforcing our labor and immigration laws, we will be equally vigilant in enforcing our anti-bias laws. Those who commit violent crimes ••

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Those who commit violent crimes against our fellow Suffolk County residents because of their race, gender, creed, sexual orientation or resident status will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

I want to end tonight by thanking my colleagues in the Legislature who came out to this unique venue for our State of the County.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

And I want to give a special thanks to our Presiding Officer Joe Caracappa for being here tonight as I know he was forced to reschedule a well deserved award he was due to receive. Thank you very much, Joe.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

I chose this location for my State of the County message to offer assurances to east end

residents even those who think they live in Peconic County, by the way ••

**(LAUGHTER)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

•• that we are here to serve them. The east end is a piece of this earth that is unique. The quaint small towns and the farms and vineyards of the north fork coupled with the charm and excitement. Of the south fork make our east end a destination for tourists from around the world.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

The preservation of this way of life is crucial not only for our souls but for our pocketbooks as well. If we allow the east end to be paved over, then why would anyone want to visit? Our tourist industry would suffer greatly and so would our county coffers. We will be sensitive to the concerns of east enders as symbolized by the fact that I chose my first State of the County address to be at an east ends venue.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

Thank you. Thank you. By working together, we can deliver some very basic things that the people of this County are asking us for. One, to make this County government as efficient as possible; two, to make this County government as ethical as possible; three, to keep this County as pristine as possible; four, to make this County as affordable as possible; and five, to put partisanship aside from get to work in a cooperative fashion to make these goals a reality.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEVY:**

In conclusion, let us dedicate this upcoming year to our veterans and all the men and women serving in our Armed Forces both here and abroad. They have fought and continue to fight to protect the democratic processes that we are exercising this evening.

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer, members of the Legislature and the people of this great County. God bless America and God bless Suffolk County. Thank you all very much. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much, County Executive Levy. We are going to go back to the public portion so I'd ask the cooperation of those trying to leave, if we can •• if we could have a little bit of decorum. Please, ladies and gentlemen.

I'd like to continue with the public portion now. Ladies and gentlemen, please. We'll just have a five•minute recess.

**(RECESS)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Order. Mr. Clerk. Would you please call the roll, Mr. Clerk.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Mr. Chairman, if I could just be recognized for one second.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

We need to call the roll first, Legislator Bishop.

**(Roll Called by Mr. Barton, Clerk)**

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

Here.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**



Here.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Here.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Here.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Here.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Present.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Here.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

(Not present)

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Here.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Here.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Here.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Here.

**LEG. TONNA:**

(Not Present).

**LEG. COOPER:**

Here.

**D.P.O. CARPENTER:**

Here.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Here.

**MR. BARTON:**

Fourteen present.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. I'd like to recognize Legislator Bishop.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Mr. Chairman, in recognizing our dignitaries ••

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Get some order, please.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

•• we neglected one of our east end dignitaries, the Mayor of the Village of Quogue, George Motz. He's, of course, the father of Tim Motz, Legislative staff member.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

I just had the pleasure of meeting him. We welcome him.

Next speaker the Reverend Rose Ann Vita.

**MS. VITA:**

I appreciate your staying very much. I'm the Lutheran Pastor on the South Fork. I'm serving both the Lutheran Congregation in Bridgehampton and in St. Michaels. I'm also the Peconic

Campus minister here at this university.

As a pastor of my community leader, and I hear the cry of God's people. And I come maybe to offer a solution. I know that you might think that building a maximum security prison in Yaphank with 11,000 beds is one way to handle the homeless. But we don't think so. I'd like to offer you something that you might want to think about and it called community land trust. It's a novel idea that's taking forth •• coming out of Springfield, Massachusetts. There's the Institute of Community Economics. There's a stellar village that's built in Burlington, Vermont that you might want to look at. And the town of Southhold on the north fork is actually doing training and learning about community land trust. Community last trust means there is a corporation of the community that hold the lands one of the most expensive items in affordable housing. That land then belongs to the community and the houses that are built upon it do not included the cost of the land. That makes the houses initially affordable.

Being part of a community corporation, any increase in value of the house does not go 100% to the landowner but a portion is returned back to the corporation so they can continue to develop. The houses remain affordable in perpetuity. It builds a great feeling of community involvement because everybody buys into the development of that town. So I urge you Institute of Community Economics is located in Springfield, Massachusetts. They have a wealth of resources, a national corporation to look at. If you're vacationing in Vermont, get up to Burlington. And if you're in Southhold, meet with the people there.

There might be another solution. And that would be to take away the house privileges that clergy have. But if you do that, there won't be any clergy out here. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much. Ken Kamoski.

**MR. KAMOSKI:**

I'm Ken Kamoski. I'm the volunteer founder of the LINCT Coalition, Learning and information Networking for Community via technology. And I came before you eight years ago as that volunteer founder of this organization. And I come here tonight to thank you for the response I received eight years ago for the funding for the last eight years of the work of the LINCT

coalition. And what we do, and it came out of a •• I and three other quaker volunteers had •• and with the help of Scott who spook earlier as professor here at the college had the idea I to get used computers from corporations here on Long Island and elsewhere around the country. We've mentored this program in many places around the country. Get donated computers, put them into donated space, in churches, in church basements, in other places that are empty during the week and have low•income people come and learn those computers. And when they learn them, they earn them. And after two years of doing that program, and when I came before you, some people said why don't you have some of your graduates here this morning? It was at 11:00 over in Riverhead. And I said because they all have jobs. They're working.

To qualify for a LINCT program, and I thank you for the support that we have received for eight years from the county budget. We really appreciate it. We wanted to be continued. But I want to point out that everybody who qualifies has to meet the County distinction of •• the requirement for being at under 200% poverty. Our qualifications are that they must have a library card, and that they must be a registered voter. We want people to vote. We want them to support the democratic process. And when they do that, I want to share with you the kinds of experiences that I have had in working with them. They relate to things we've heard here tonight. The most difficult thing for people to come from every town in Suffolk County to the sites that we have •• they come from your towns. If we don't have a site in your town, then come and the biggest problem is transportation. The other is day•care for their children. And the other is the homeless, who •• we had a class of homeless people here two years ago at a motel right across from Southampton College here. And there was one family, they were in two rooms. The County was paying \$9,000 a month to keep them there. And their kids were being bussed up to Wyandanch to go to school every day. And we had these families wanting to learn and earn a computer together and the kids weren't there during the day when the mother's could have worked with them.

So I want to do two things. One, thank you again for your support. And urge you to do •• to encourage other county agencies other than the Department of Labor that we have been working with •• we've recently received a request for •• a proposal from the Department of Health. And we have responded to that and we hope that that will be funded. And we'd like to see every county agency supporting this work to enable people who are on welfare to become taxpayers. They are getting jobs and we can give you the evidence of that. And I thank you very much again for your support.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Joe Hinds.

**MR. HINDS:**

Good evening. My name is Joe Hinds. I'm the pastor at the Springs Community Presbyterian Church in East Hampton. I appreciate your diligence and staying to hear from your constituents. I'm fortunate that the church a home for me and my family that allows me to live where I work. And although I'm a new•comer to the east end having come here about 16 months ago from just south of here, I would echo what's been said before, about our housing issue here. And I'm glad earlier in our proceedings that the invocation did invoke the struggle we have for justice. Not because I'm going to preach, but because I want to urge you to take seriously the call to justice that we prayed for already in these proceedings, address over crowded, dangerous, sub•standard and over•priced housing. Not by punishing tenants whose only guilt is looking for an affordable, safe place to live. But to address the greed and injustice that jacks up the prices in the first place.

I would urge the Legislators along with the commission that Mr. Levy announced earlier along with your colleagues and constituents to continue to seek the justice that's been invoked here tonight, to keep this before you all the time when you sit down, when you stand up. Let us not close our hand in fist of greed, but open our hands to those who are in need for decent and affordable housing. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much. Susan McKeon Steinmann. Bill Ellis is next.

**MS. STEINMAN:**

My name is Susan McKeon Steinmann. And I live in Mastic Beach, a little bit west of here but I still consider us in the east end. We have a lot of the same housing problems in Mastic Beach

that people from South Hampton and east have talked about. I know for example •• I know personally somebody who's paying over \$1300 a month rent who's working full•time, is a union school bus driver. And is having a terrible time staying in that affordable housing because of what's somebody mentioned before, the landlord doesn't want to fix things; if you don't like it, you can move. And this is a mother, a single mother of two kids who's working full•time and having a very hard time. And yet she's serving children, she's serving her school district.

And I have some suggestions as to where the money could be gotten from to pay for some of the affordable housing that's needed and some of the programs that were talked about in the State of the County address. We all know the history of money being •• I don't want to use the word stolen, that's a hard word, but money really mis•spent by the •• in the past, some of the programs. Bids that were not the lowest, people that made money off of programs. And I think that some of these people should be held to an accounting; and that the County should try to get some of this money back. I think anybody that made money off of •• not doing what they should have been doing, you know, if there was a little hanky•panky going on, those people ought to be held accountable. If they weren't prosecuted, they should at least take out of their bank accounts and pay the County back.

The other thing I want to raise is tax breaks that the County gives to various entities, developers, builders who promise they're going to do certain things. Tax breaks are given in exchange for promising a certain amount of money to a community. Tax breaks are given because, you know, people promise to give a certain amount of jobs to an entity. I was very shocked to find out that a Home Depot in my community, that many of us did not want since we had one right in Patchogue, we didn't think it was necessary, that there were union workers working on that but they were not our union workers; that the entity brought employees, people who were union members from other states and other places so they could save money. So what I would like to say is, that if entities •• let's go back through all the tax rolls. Let's look at the tax breaks that have been given for the last ten years; and let's see if people did what they promised they were going to do. If they said that they are getting this break to provide so many jobs, did they provide those jobs? If they said they would throw in the cost of their own sewer system, did they do it? If they didn't, we need to stop that tax break, close that loophole and the County can get a lot of money that it needs for affordable housing.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. Bill Ellis. Lawrence Gray. Mr. Gray? Daniel Williams? Mr. Williams? Gary Contano? Frank Marino?

**MR. MARINO:**

Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to thank you very much for having me and for staying and waiting for what I had to say. It's been a long night and there was some real interesting conversation going down here. And it was great listening to most of it. And most of it had to do with affordable housing.

I'm a Suffolk County resident and I've been in Suffolk County for the past 30 years. I stand before you today basically asking for your support and acknowledgement of the need in our communities for open space. Open space in particular for designated, specific athletic fields for kids in our communities. Youth programs, of which I am a member of, are in desperate need in Suffolk County for property, for fields, for areas for our youth to play in and have fun in. And right now we are definitely lacking that area of support from the Suffolk County Legislature. Although we have had some inroads recently, we are still in desperate need for fields for our young people.

I am involved with a LYSA organization, Longwood Youth. We have 3,000 young people who are in desperate need of fields. We are right now having problems getting the support from the school to supply those fields, not that they want to not support us. The problem is they have no space. They have fields that are necessary for their own programs and projects. And in the meantime we have many, many young people who are in need of space and have no place to play.

So I'm asking as we consider the constant concerns of affordable housing, that with housing will come young people. And I think it's necessary and very important for the Suffolk County Legislature to consider the need of those young people who will people into those homes when they're made available. And in my opinion, kids in sports will definitely stay out of courts. Children will not be hanging out in front of homes as the County leader suggested. They will not be involved with gangs if they're given an opportunity to do something other than do those unnecessary things. And in my opinion that would be definitely playing sports. So we're asking for your support in the upcoming year to consider furnishing us the necessary space not just for our LYSA program, but for all youth programs throughout Suffolk County. Thank you very much for your time.



**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much. Kevin McAllister.

**MR. McALLISTER:**

Thank you, Mr. Caracappa. And congratulations. I'd just like to say it's really important that the Legislature finds the public important with inconclusion. And I found that with yourself. And I want to compliment you for providing me the opportunity to speak routinely to the Legislature on an important issue. And obviously I've been speaking this issue for four years. I hope over that time slowly but surely we are educating ourselves with respect to Suffolk County's Vector Control Program. And obviously with respect to whether it be public health considerations or the health of our eustrian waters, are crabs and our fish, it's important that we are paying attention to this.

I have been accused from the public that the Baykeepers more concerned about fish and crabs than public health. And I want to reiterate that's not true. I heard in the address this evening about the communities that are vested into water quality, the Bay Shores, the Babylons, the Sayvilles, the Sag Harbors. That's the fabric of these communities. Clean water means strong communities. And I ask you to continue to embrace the things that I may say, the facts and figures I bring forward and take that into consideration with your deliberations.

Mr. Foley, I want to share with you and I want to thank you for inclusion as well. I had followed up on, I guess, a pledge that I would look into vector controls' records over the last five to ten years. And I want to share with you what I have gleaned with respect to wetland ditching, which I've long held that are acting as direct conduits to our receiving waters. In 2002 there was virtually no work done and very limited in 2003.

So, again, in the interest of taking a hard look at potential waste out there, is this truly an effort or a program that is protecting public health? Or is it quite candidly a facade that maintains the status quo during the winter months. Again, just take into consideration, as I glean information, I will bring forward, and again I appreciate each and every one of you taking the time to listen and not tune the public out. Thank you.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you, Kevin. There's no other cards. Anyone else wishing to be heard? Step forward. State your name.



**MS. MOTT:**

Yes, good evening. My name is Sandra Mott. I live in Riverhead. The long and short of it is on July 1st 2,002 I had a grande mal seizure. I was diagnosed with a very large benigniora. It was the size of an orange feathered into my cavities of my brain. And when they opened my skull, they found it went into my bone as well.

To say the least, my life is no more what I had as of July 1st. I don't have that life, I have no credit, I have no name, I have no job, I have no ability to pay for insurance. And with \$71,000 worth of bills that have accrued due to the fact that I was not provided social service care at Stony Brook, medically, yes; social service, no. They refused to prepare the documentation of 14 pages. They left it next to my bed the day I was diagnosed with a grande mal seizure. I'm going to repeat myself. A brain tumor. They fact that I had to have surgery, I had no choice, and P.S., you could die, they left the form next to me on the bed. I was on dilantin so I wouldn't have seizures, coupled with the fact that they had given me insulin so I wouldn't go into a comma and steroids to reduce the inflammation in my brain.

I did not have a lobotomy. I am extremely well•educated. And it's being used against me. I'm now being told that I'm that I am too articulate and too well•educated; and, therefore, I can go work at McDonald's. Pardon me? I spent twenty years in housing in social services. My degree is from Boston University specializing in housing and social services, coupled with a paralegal from Adelphi, a Bachelor's in history. I have twenty years in servicing the public. And I can't get through the paperwork? You know why? I was not legally competent to do the paperwork. I was not medically competent. I was planning my funeral. They left the form next to my bed and walked away. I went home, I took the medications, I called the following Monday, the fourth of July weekend, I think it was the 8th of July. They refused to do the paperwork at Stony Brook. They refused to see me to do the paperwork so that they could get paid. They knew the second •• the second I came out of the coma •• the seizure, I said what's going on? You had a grande mal seizure. You're kidding, I said. I am unemployed and I am un•insured. I couldn't say it any sooner. I was unconscious. It was repeated and repeated and repeated and repeated.

Point of entry was Central Suffolk Hospital to your health care services. But guess what? That's not where they being the paperwork. You have to be admitted. So they transferred me over on a very expensive ride, \$1,030 from Central Suffolk over to Stony Brook where they proceeded to repeat all the tests.

I'm not complaining about the medical treatment. I'm here before you.

I am speaking. But I did not survive brain surgery to be financially raped ••financially raped from July 1st to date. I live this every day, every single day. I can not pay. They do not do the forms. They refused to see me. They did it as a courtesy, Stony Brook said. That was a Miss Gumas. So I found Stoverton Riverhead Social Services. Talk about the twilight zone. Do you know what they have beyond the window cages when you look in? Boxes of 20 feet, four feet high, denied, denied, denied, denied, denied, boxes of papers. That's what they have. They want to deny. For whatever reason.

I didn't ask for anything in my life. I didn't ask for this brain tumor. I'm not a drug addict. I'm not an alcoholic. I don't have HIV AIDS. I was told I should have had an illegitimate child, at least one, because I'd be eligible for anything, because that's what Miss Greeves, the woman who worked there said to me, she's going to do. That's your worker telling me in front of my mother, I should have had an illegitimate child. Well, I took a different path.

The gist of it is system stinks. I'm better educated than any of them. And you better get a committee to abolish this •• these people who bought out early retirement. Early retirement, they're bought out and then they come back on a per diem to do the work that they didn't do the first time for more than money.

Now, I called Mr. Gaffney's office. I called actually them because they made up some numbers. They didn't use my full name; coupled with the fact to make a very long story short, I ended up calling Mr. Gaffney's office because they hung up on me in Riverhead. That's what your County employees are paid to do, hang up on people? I have such a record, such a list of papers, anyone wants to see them, please invite me to your office. I am tired. \$71,300. I don't know what to do. I'm begging you to help me. What do you want me to do? What do you want me to do?

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Ma'am, if I could, have you reached out to your local Legislator?

**MS. MOTT:**

Mr. Caracciolo. His aide, Lisa. There's so much they could do. You know what they say? It's not a County issue. It's a state issue. It's not a state issue. It's not a state issue, it's a county

issue. It's not this. I didn't ask they told me. I'm lying in the bed with a grande mal seizure, brain tumor, highly medicated coupled with the fact that, you know, I could die. I'm preparing my funeral. And I didn't ask. I didn't know what to ask. I don't know what to ask now. You want your advocates for your citizenry. Hire me. You want to clean it up? I did it for a living. And when my books were audited, don't worry, no one ever questioned it. You want someone qualified, hire me. Because I don't know what to do, whose going to hire me? I say brain tumor, they look at me, really? You look so wonderful. I don't look so wonderful, do I? Do I look wonderful? This is five o'clock in the morning. That's they day they gave me the literature for Stony Brook, two hours before my 7 AM surgery. That's when I'm supposed to look to see what I'm supposed to ask for? That's the day of the surgery. This is the scar. You could wake up with it. It's called a benign meningioma. It's an epidemic on Long Island. I've met over thirty people. Four in a little store in Southold alone. Some can't be operated on. And because of the size of mine, it could grow back. This shoulder I have growth of a tumor. This shoulder.

The Attorney General asked for my parents' name, might I add. Because I'm the only child and I'm going to be inheriting their home and their assets. But guess what, you know what it is? It's a single, mobile home. They rent the property. They worked their whole life. So did I. This is how you treat people?

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Ma'am, if you just sit tight, we're going to get a representative from the County Executive.

**MS. MOTT:**

He helped as best as he could.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

We'll see if we can get someone from the County Executive •• County Executive Levy's office. My office as Presiding Officer will take your information. We'll try and restart the process and see if we can navigate through some paperwork for you.

**MS. MOTT:**

Bless you, because I'm not the only one. Because there's a suit in Connecticut with the Attorney General where money was hidden from Yale Haven Hospital. Hidden. Channel seven, Jim Hopper. Talk to him. And they hid the money from the people.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Linda, if you could just get her information because I don't have a card on her and we'll make sure we reach out to her.

**MS. MOTT:**

This is a nation•wide issue and I am living proof that you can survive brain surgery. Dr. Ralph Davis saved my life.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

**MS. MOTT:**

I thank you for letting me come up. I'm sorry for going on long•winded. It's been a long 18 months.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

No. We wish you best of health.

**MS. MOTT:**

Thank you, sir.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Anyone else wishing to address the Legislature? Is there any other business to come before this body?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Motion.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

There's a motion to adjourn.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No. Motion to recess to the next Special Meeting two days from now.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

I think that motion •• there's nothing else on the agenda to •• you can make a motion to recess.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Motion to adjourn.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

There's a motion to adjourn.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

I don't know. I have to ask counsel. I don't know if it's •• because it's another Special Meeting Notice. We have to •• I believe •• yes, absolutely because we have to have a separate public portion for that Special Meeting. And by recessing we bypass the public portion for Wednesday, which wouldn't be appropriate.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No, we don't want to do that.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

No. There's a motion to adjourn by Legislator Alden seconded by Deputy Presiding Officer Carpenter. We are adjourned. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

**(THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 8:33 PM)**